

SHIFT OF SOVIET MILITARY ATTACHES

- I. Within past five weeks, at least four ranking Soviet MA's, assigned to Satellite capitals, have returned to USSR (after less than 18 months' duty).
  - A. The four are MA's for Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria.
  - B. In addition, two others--from Albania and Poland--have probably returned to Moscow, while the Soviet MA in Peiping was not at post on Army Day (23 Feb).
  - C. Three of total have made formal departures, have not yet been replaced.
  - D. Even if others only temporarily absent, near-simultaneous recall could be indication of major Kremlin military consultations affecting Satellites.
  - E. Several left just before Army Day, when ranking Soviet MA is traditional host

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1. Conspicuousness of recall could be

part of Soviet effort to impress  
West with imminence of counter-  
measures against West German re-  
armament.

II. Attaches involved were wartime field com-  
manders with distinguished combat records.

A. Their arrival at Satellite capitals in  
late '53 showed Soviet emphasis on  
improving Satellite training and  
proficiency.

B. Experience gathered in Satellites  
assignments would make them useful  
members of possible combined planning  
or operational staffs.

III. Creation of such Soviet-Satellite defense  
structure (forecast at Moscow Security  
Conference, 2 Dec) may be under way.

A. Molotov (8 Feb) said mutual defense  
pact already being negotiated, referred  
to necessity of creating "unified mili-

B. Visits to Moscow by three Satellite

defense ministers in recent weeks  
other possible evidence such consulta-  
tions.

C. Chinese involvement suggested, not  
only by MA's absence from post, but  
also by recent Soviet acknowledgement  
of pledged Chinese support for Moscow  
Conference decisions.